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concl
position of the moving portion comprised by each animal trap.

R E M A R K S

In the Office Action mailed on September 23, 2002,
the Examiner finally rejected claims 1-6 and 10-14 under 35
5 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Vick et al. (USPN
5,005,416) in view of Nieves (USPN 6,202,340) and Skelton et
al. (USPN 6,067,018), and claims 7-9 as unpatentable over Vick
et al. in view of Nieves.

Applicant appreciates the time and consideration
10 provided by Examiner in reviewing this application, however,
respectfully traverses the rejection of the claims at least for
the following reasons.

Applicant's system includes a plurality of animal traps
each of which has an identity. Each trap transmits RF signals
15 identifying the trap and indicating the position of a movable
part e.g., the jaws of the trap. A central unit receives each RF
signal and identifies the trap sending each signal, from the
transmitted identity, and the state of the trap. Such a system
can be used to periodically service and reset sprung traps while
20 avoiding having to check all traps. This provides an advantage
by allowing quick service to sprung traps and saves time by not
having to check all traps. The claims 1 and 7 have been amended
to clarify the use of trap identities. Claim 5 has been amended
for clarity.

The use of unique identities for each trap and the transmission of the identity with RF signals from the traps is discussed from page 3 line 27 through page 4 line 12 and throughout the application. Particularly, the unique identity of the individual traps is discussed at page 4 lines 5 and 6. The transmission of RF signals including trap identity and trap status is discussed on page 4 lines 13-19. The interpretation of trap signals by a central unit is discussed for example, at page 4 line 20 through page 5 line 7.

10 The claims 1-14 of the present application stand rejected as obvious in view of various combinations of the references Vick et al. 5,005,416; Nieves 6,202,340 and Skelton et al., 6,067,018.

 In order to maintain a Prima facie case of obviousness
15 the combined references must at least show all of the elements of the claimed invention. Independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, recite, among other elements, a plurality of traps each comprising a transmitter for RF transmitting a signal including an identity portion identifying the trap sending the signal and a
20 central unit responsive to received RF signals for identifying the trap sending each signal. None of the references teaches or suggests a system having a plurality of traps each including a transmitter sending a signal with a portion identifying the trap sending the signal. Further, none teaches or suggests a control
25 unit responsive to such identity signals. Accordingly, the Prima facie case for obviousness is traversed and the claims are

allowable as they now stand.

The Examiner asserts that Vick et al. discloses a system in which each of a plurality of traps comprises an RF transmitter for sending a signal "identifying the one of a plurality of traps comprising the RF transmitter". The Examiner indicates that a discussion of such might be found in column 8 lines 4-11, 37-45 and 50-63. Applicant has reviewed the Vick et al. reference in detail including the portion referred to by the Examiner and cannot find any reference to the transmission of signals including a trap identity. In fact, such trap identity is not needed by the Vick et al. system which is concerned about overall insect infestations in grain.

The Examiner does not assert, and applicant cannot find, reference to trap identities in Nieves or Skelton et al.

Accordingly, none of the references show the RF transmission of trap identities and the interpretation of such identities as recited in independent claims 1-7. For this reason, these claims and claims 2-6 and 8-14 which depend therefrom are asserted to be allowable.

The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (312)577-7000 with any questions in connection with this application.

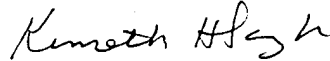
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper

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payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date March 21, 2003

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS TO SHOW SHANGES

CLAIMS:

1. An animal trap system comprising:
a plurality of animal traps, each trap comprising:
5 a moving portion having at least two positions;
a transmitter for periodically rf transmitting a signal
including an identity portion identifying the one of the
plurality of animal traps comprising the rf transmitter and a
position portion identifying the position of the moving portion;
10 and
a central unit for receiving rf signals from the plurality
of animal traps and in response to the transmitted identity
portion for identifying the trap comprising the transmitter
transmitting each signal and for identifying the position of the
15 moving portion comprised by each animal trap.
5. An animal trap system in accordance with claim 1
wherein the central [control] unit comprises apparatus for
annunciating the identities of ones of the plurality of animal
traps and the position of their respective moving portions.
- 20 7. An animal trap system comprising:
a plurality of animal traps, each trap comprising:
a moving portion having at least two positions;
a transmitter responsive to a change in the position of the

moving portion for rf transmitting a signal including an identity portion identifying the one of the plurality of animal traps comprising the rf transmitter and a position portion the position of the moving portion; and

- 5 a central unit for receiving rf signals from the plurality of animal traps and for identifying the trap comprising the transmitter transmitting each signal and for identifying the position of the moving portion comprised by each animal trap.